



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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FEMA-1502-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #2

Tuesday, December 23, 2003

1. Situation

A severe storm system moved into the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 18 and 19, 2003 dumping up to 4.28 inches of rain in 12 hours resulting in flash floods through the southwestern part of Virginia. Two young children in Buchanan County died when their home was washed away by a flash flood. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to single-family residences, manufactured homes and private access bridges. Several apartment buildings with major damage were also identified, as well as damage to sewer pipes and private wells.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Smyth and Tazewell, and the cities of Galax and Radford on November 20. After evaluations by Preliminary Damage Assessment teams, Governor Warner requested a federal disaster declaration on November 26. On December 9, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1502-DR-VA) was granted to Virginia for Individual Assistance in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth and Tazewell, and the city of Galax. *Effective 1330 hrs Sunday, December 21, 2003 the US Homeland Security advisory level and the Virginia threat advisory level were raised from yellow (elevated) to orange (high).*

2. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ Identify possible additional DRC locations and sequence of openings and closings.
- ☐ Ensure safety and security of field staff.
- ☐ *Ensure priority handling of individual disaster victims.*
- ☐ *Development of mitigation success stories.*
- ☐ *Implement an External Affairs strategy that will proactively manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate staffing of public meetings and support all recovery program elements.*

3. Response Activities

A. Transportation

- ☐ As of COB December 22, *all roads* in the disaster area are open to normal traffic.
- ☐ *Highway construction projects throughout the Commonwealth have been suspended as of noon, December 24 to speed the flow of holiday traffic. Construction will resume Saturday, December 27.*

4. Recovery Activities

A. Human Services

i. Teleregistrations

- ❑ New teleregistrations since last reporting period amount to ***138*** for a total of ***407*** registrations at COB ***December 22***. See Attachment 1 for teleregistrations by designated jurisdictions.
- ❑ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Lines are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- ❑ The Teleregistration lines will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the holidays.

ii. Small Business Administration (as of COB 12/22/03)

	Issued	Received	#Approved	\$ Approved	Declined	Withdrawn	Pending
Home	<i>116</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>
Business	<i>39</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
EIDL	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
TOTAL	<i>155</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>

iii. Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

(a) Housing

- ❑ Temporary housing assistance disbursed to date – ***\$407,469.04***.
- ❑ More than 76 homes destroyed, 149 homes with major damage, 255 with minor damage and 128 homes affected. Losses estimated are at \$10,283,389. More than 47 businesses were affected by the incident, including three destroyed. Estimated losses amount to \$2,681,000.

(b) Other Needs Assistance

Total Referrals Received:	<i>165</i>
Total Referrals Approved:	<i>0</i>
Total Referrals Ineligible:	<i>54</i>
Total Referrals Withdrawn:	<i>6</i>
Total Referrals Pending	<i>105</i>

iv. Disaster Recovery Centers

(a) Bluefield DRC

- ❑ One DRC is open at Kroger Plaza, Bldg. 713, S. College Ave. in Bluefield. Operation hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m.
- ❑ Between December 16 through 22, ***22*** walk-ins visited the DRC for a total of ***45*** to date.

v. Disaster Unemployment Insurance

- ❑ Individuals in the declared jurisdictions can submit Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications at the nearest Virginia Employment Commission office through January 15.

B. Mitigation

- ☐ *Strategy complete has been signed by the SCO and FCO.*
- ☐ *Met with City of Galax officials regarding the National Flood Insurance Program and its benefits.*
- ☐ *Attended and spoke at Giles County "Town Meeting" regarding the registration process, flood insurance and mitigation for homeowners.*
- ☐ *Performed Community Assistance Visit with Giles County planner, assistant county administrator and county planner. Covered substantial damage, ICC, venting, elevation certificates, etc.*

C. Legislative Liaison

- ☐ *No outstanding issues at this time.*
- ☐ Sent Legislative Advisory to members of Virginia General Assembly whose districts were in the designated jurisdictions on:
 - o *"Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for Five Counties and One Independent City."*

D. Community Relations

- ☐ *Completed distributing and posting flyers and had random one-on-one contact with individuals in Buchanan, Bland and Giles counties.*
- ☐ *Held closeout meeting with county emergency managers and administrators on December 22.*
- ☐ *Distribution of flyers and personal contacts ongoing in Smyth County.*

E. Public Affairs

- ☐ *Issued Press Releases on:*
 - ☐ *"Change in Days of Operation for Toll-Free Registration Lines."*
 - ☐ *"Insured Property Owners Should Register with FEMA."*
 - ☐ *"Give the Gift of Disaster Preparedness."*
 - ☐ *"Disaster Recovery Center Holiday Schedule."*
 - ☐ *"Seek Assistance for Well or Septic System Damage."*

F. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- ☐ *Met with interfaith agencies in Pearisburg on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in Giles County.*
- ☐ *Met with interfaith agencies in Galax on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in the city of Galax.*
- ☐ Contacted officials in Bland County to schedule a meeting after the holidays to establish a Local Recovery Task Force.

G. Resources

- ☐ The Disaster Coordination Center in Bluefield is supported daily by the Virginia Departments of:

Emergency Management	2
Conservation & Recreation	0
<i>Fire Programs</i>	2
<u>Social Services (at DRC)</u>	<u>1</u>
Total (as of <i>December 16</i> , 2003)	5
- ☐ Disaster Field Office resources are reported on the Situation Report for FEMA-1491-DR-VA.

H. Commonwealth Situation Reports

- ☐ Situation reports are being prepared and distributed weekly on Tuesdays.
- ☐ The (Bluefield) Disaster Coordination Center's operational hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The Bluefield DCC will only be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2003; and will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the holidays.
- ☐ The (Richmond) Disaster Field Office's operational hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephones are answered from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Disaster Field office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the holidays.

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Mary Camp, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

Attachment 1 – Teleregistrations
As of COB December 22

Designated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/22	Cumulative
Bland	0	38
Buchanan	0	17
Galax (city)	0	17
Giles	0	45
Smyth	0	46
Tazewell	0	215
Total	0	378

Undesignated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/22	Cumulative
Carroll	0	1
Craig	0	1
Hanover	0	1
Henry	0	1
Lexington (City)	0	1
Newport News (City)	0	1
Prince Edward	0	1
Radford	0	1
San Juan (Municipio)	0	1
Spotsylvania	0	1
Total	0	10